



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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Success Story – 3rd Quarter (October/November/December 2014) Cooperative Agreement 2U61TS000153-04

Community Education/Outreach **CES Environmental Services, Inc.** **Houston, Harris County, Texas**

Background:

The CES Environmental Services, Inc., site is a former chemical recycling facility located in Houston, Harris County, Texas. The facility filed for bankruptcy in 2010 and the site was abandoned, leaving chemicals on site in various vacuum boxes, roll-off boxes, frac tanks, tanker trucks, above ground storage tanks, waste water treatment tanks, waste piles, totes, vats, drums, and other smaller containers. There has been significant vandalism at the site since 2010, resulting in spillage of chemicals and waste to the ground surface both on site and into an adjacent residential neighborhood. Over the years, numerous attempts have been made to address the contamination, but have not been completed due to the extent of chemicals present on site. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began activities at the site in August 2014 to prevent additional contamination from being released and to remove all chemicals from the facility property.

Public Health Concerns:

Storm water runoff from heavy rains have resulted in oily materials and floating solids being carried from the site into the residential neighborhood. In addition, residents are concerned about odors in the neighborhood, which are likely due to phenolic chemicals stored and spilled on site.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Response:

In collaboration with the EPA, DSHS staff went door-to-door in the adjacent neighborhoods to talk with residents about the site and the actions EPA is taking to address site contamination. In addition, information about an upcoming community meeting was provided to all residents.



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Outcome/Result:

DSHS educational outreach efforts were successful due to the fact that:

- DSHS and EPA distributed flyers at all occupied households (approximately 150) in the adjacent residential neighborhoods. The flyers contained EPA and DSHS contact information and information about the upcoming community meeting.
- DSHS and EPA talked with approximately 50 residents about the site and gathered community concerns.
- DSHS was prepared to meet the needs of the neighborhood by having a Spanish speaker available throughout the outreach activities.
- Residents were appreciative of DSHS' and EPA's educational outreach efforts in the area.

For more information on this Success Story, please contact:

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